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RURAL NOTES.

The primal rule of good farming is to recoup the soil in some form or other, for every crop taken out of it. Land will never grow poor if this rule be rigidly observed.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Country Gentleman*, says:—"Get something ready for exhibition at the next fair. Every body should contribute something. Do not be afraid; show your hand."

THE Exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, held at Derby rather more than a month ago, was unusually successful. The number of visitors amounted to about 130,000. A surplus of some \$20,000 goes to the general exchequer.

READ all the selected articles in a well-edited paper. *Pen and Plough* says with much truth: "In our opinion it takes longer and more labour to select, the wide world over, the best matter than to write more of what seems to be original and sometimes brilliant."

A WELL-DESERVED honour has been bestowed on two of the foremost agriculturists of Great Britain. The Emperor of Germany, by imperial decree, dated June 1st, 1881, has awarded the gold medal of merit for agriculture to Mr. Lawes and Dr. Gilbert, jointly, in recognition of their great services in the development of scientific and practical farming.

THE ninth annual report of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association, compiled by Secretary D. W. Curtis of Madison, contains as a frontispiece, the engraved portrait of Miss Fanny Morley, twenty-two years of age, a young lady whoon leaving school with her education "finished," as the saying is, took charge of her father's dairy of seventy cows, and made the butter which won the Sweepstakes Prize at the 1879 International Dairy Show in New York, "in competition with the world."

OF all styles of "fancy farming," many unenlightened wisecracks regard "fish-farming" as most supremely ridiculous. But in a letter to the *New York Tribune*, Seth Green, the noted pisciculturist declares that the water acre in that State is equal in value, as a food-producing element, to the land, when properly stocked with the inhabitants of the water. "I have become thoroughly convinced," says Mr. Green, "through years of investigation, that an acre of water can be made to produce as much food as an acre of land."

New York Tribune states that Colonel Hitch, New London, Conn., hazards the letter to the *Boston Traveller*, that

more than half of the cows recorded in the "gilt-edged register" of the American Jersey Cattle Club "will not give an averaging ten quarts of milk daily, or make one pound of butter per day for three months;" and, referring to the recent sale of the bull Polonius for \$4,500, and "a more ordinary looking thirteen-year old cow at \$3,000," of "the Alpha craze strain of blood," he uses this emphatic exhortation: "Down with such wild-cat theories and give us good blood at fair prices, and less humbug."

THOSE enterprising stock-men, Messrs. John Snell's Sons, of Edmonton, Ont., report August 19th: "We received last week our new importation of Cotswolds and Berkshires, which includes the 1st and 2nd prize boars, and the 1st and 2nd prize sows at the late Royal Show held at Derby. These are from the far-famed herds of Messrs. Swanwick of Cirencester, and Stewart of Gloucester. Cotswolds were selected from the flocks of Messrs. Jacobs, Swanwick and Towles, and consist of shearling rams and ewes and ram lambs, and are a superior lot."

MR. MOSSOM BOYD, of Island Park Farm, Bobcaygeon, Ont., who is determined to test the relative merits of the Shorthorn, Hereford, and Polled cattle for beef production, has made some important additions to his herds by recent purchase and importation. He has bought from Mr. F. W. Stone of Guelph, Hereford cow Bonnie Lass 16, and heifer Peerless 3rd. He has also just received from quarantine at Quebec the imported Aberdeen or Polled Angus heifers, Pride of the Find-horn 3rd, Mayflower of Altyre 3rd, and Wanton. Success to him!

AT the annual sale of Shropshire sheep, at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, August 4th and 5th, Hon. M. H. Cochrane, of Hillhurst Farm, Compton, Quebec, purchased a ram for 22 guineas, and five ewes at 10 guineas each. Mr. S. Beattie, Canada, bought 20 rams and 40 ewes. Sales or lettings of prominent English flocks of Hampshire Downs took place the first week in August. At Hornington, 10 ram lambs were let at an average of £23 12s. 6d., the highest price paid being 60 guineas. Eight ram lambs were sold at 5 to 20 guineas each. At the sale of another flock, an average of £9 was made on rams let and sold.

MR. HARRIS LEWIS, the well-known dairy farmer of Frankfort, N. Y., a frequent and always welcome visitor at our Dairymen's Association meetings, is no great believer in corn fodder for milch cows, and naturally has no great faith in silos. Nevertheless, he does not think it surprising that the idea "should have swept the country like a tornado." "There was a time," he adds, "when men

said a dollar could be saved by stewing the cow's food; but you may go about the country now and find almost any number of steamers laid up to dry. The farmers found out it did not pay. The fact was that on it cows could not be healthy three months at a time, and I believe that this ensilage will turn out the same way."

THE *Globe* informs us that the Messrs. Groff, of Waterloo, have recently sold an enormous steer, fed and bred by them, to Mr. Hope, manager of the Bow Park Stock Farm, Brantford, for the large sum of \$300, or 15c. live weight. This steer, "Canadian Champion," is pronounced the best two-year old steer that was ever bred or fed in Canada. He is now twenty-seven months old, and weighs 2,000 lbs. He will be exhibited at the Industrial Fair, Toronto; Provincial Exhibition, London; and the Central Fair, Hamilton, by the Messrs. Groff, when he will be transferred to Mr. Hope, who will exhibit him at the Chicago Fat Stock Show. This animal will take a front place among American Stock as well as Canadian.

FORESTRY pays. Here is the proof of it: The average growth of different species of trees in twelve years is stated as follows: White maple, one foot in diameter and thirty feet high; ash leaf maple or box elder, one foot in diameter and twenty feet high; white willow, eighteen inches in diameter and fifty feet high; yellow willow, eighteen inches in diameter and thirty-five feet high; Lombardy poplar, ten inches in diameter and forty feet high; white ash, ten inches in diameter and twenty-five feet high; black walnut and butternut, ten inches in diameter and twenty feet high. Calculate the value of an acre of these tree-growths, especially black walnut and butternut, and it will be difficult to show to what more profitable use it can possibly be put.

Scribner's Monthly for August contains a collection of aphorisms from the negro quarters, which may be pondered to advantage by white men. Here are some of them. De wire grass lubs a lazy nigger. Dar's right smart 'ligion in a plough handle. Twelve erelock nebber is in a hurry. Nebber 'pend too much on de blackberry blossoms. Don't bet on a 'tater-hill befo' de grabblin' time. Heap o' good cotton-stalks gits chopped up fum 'sociatin' wid de weeds. Many a nice corn-silk winds up wid a nebbin in de fall. A chicken-roos' is de dubbul's steel trap, an' a grassy corn-row is his flowery garden. De mornin'-glories ain't pertickler lubly to a man wid de backache. De dinner bell's always in chune. You can't spile a ripe punkin by 'busin' it. De bullfrog knows mo' 'bout de rain dan de olmanick. Some corn-stalks is like lots o' folks—dey fling all deir power into de blades an' tassels.